RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 7th May, 1993/
17 Vaisakha, 1915 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

सिंचाई क्षमता का कम उपयोग

*161. **श्री वीरेन जे० शाह** † :
डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या **जल संसाधन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मार्च, 1992 की स्थिति के अनुसार देश में सिंचाई की कुल अधिष्ठापित क्षमता 81.3 मिलियन हेक्टेयर थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इस अवधि तक केवल 73 मिलियन हेक्टेयर भूमि पर ही सिंचाई हो पा रही थी और इस प्रकार क्षमता तथा उपयोगिता का अन्तर 8.3 मिलियन हेक्टेयर था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) सरकार ने इस क्षमता तथा उपयोगिता के अन्तर को समाप्त करने के लिए क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है और इस प्रयोजनार्थ कुल कितनी राशि की आवश्यकता है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.R. THUNGON) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री वीरेन जे० शाह द्वारा पूछा गया ।

Statement

The total installed irrigation capacity as on March, 1992 in the country was 81.2 million hectares.

A total area of 73.1 million hectares of land was being irrigated by this period thus leaving a gap of 8.1 million hectares between the capacity and its utilisation.

Details as on March, 1992 are as under :—

(In Million hectares)

	Potential Created	Potential Utilised	Gap
Major & Medium	30.9	26.6	4.3
Minor	50.3	46.5	3.8
Total	81.2	73.1	8.1

No specific separate targets are required to be set in this regard because it depends on how soon the project authorities develop the command area.

In order to give additional assistance to the States with an objective of bridging the gap between potential created and utilisation achieved, Centre operates a Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development scheme. The scheme covers 167 selected projects with culturable command area of 20.97 million hectares spread over 20 States and 2 Union Territories. An outlay of Rs. 2510 crores during the Eighth Plan has been made for the same.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, as the hon. Minister has replied, the gap between the installed capacity or the potential created, whatever you

want to say, for which the money is spent and the actual utilisation is 8.3 million hectares—he has taken it as 8.2 million hectares; it is actually 8.28 million hectares and I round it off to 8.3 million hectares. Now the cost of the medium and major irrigation projects per hectare is Rs. 35,018.

Rs. 28,014 crores has been allocated but it has not been utilised—it is much more than our defence Budget. And by the end of the Eighth Plan, this will increase to 10.2 million hectares, that is, the gap will increase to 10 million hectares. There is the cost and time overrun of the four major and one medium irrigation projects which were started in the First Plan and spilled over to the Eighth Plan. Nearly, 31.4 per cent of the World Bank and the IDA loans which is unutilised is for the irrigation sector for which we are paying commitment charges in foreign exchange. Why I am saying this now is that the two projects in Karnataka had to be cancelled last week because the cost of administration of the projects was more than the cost of the projects that were there. Now, this is the situation and this results in a burden to the nation and the farmers are penalised by the proposal to hike the irrigation tax. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the farmers are to be made to pay for the higher irrigation costs because of total Governmental inefficiency ? Will the hon. Minister inform the House as to how much gap will be reduced in the next 12 months, the steps that the Government will take to eliminate the entire gap, by what time and what are the specific time-bound plans to fully utilise the unutilised World Bank and IDA credits ?

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, it is a very, very important question because much of our green revolution depends on the irrigation and water availability to the farmers. I must admit, as I have already stated in the reply, that there is a gap between the irrigation potential created and the irrigation potential utilised .... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : The cost of the gap is Rs. 28,000 crores of rupees.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : But then the hon. Member would be glad to know, if he looks into the details, that in the major and medium irrigation projects, there is a decrease in the gap. But there is an increase of the gap in minor irrigation projects. The reasons are very clear. In respect of minor irrigation projects, the irrigation facilities are created..... (*Interruptions*).....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Excuse me. Would you give me the figures of the gap separately for the medium and minor and for the major projects ? If you see your reply to Unstarred Question of today, it is exactly opposite to what you are stating in the House and I can quote it right now if you want me to do that.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, just to elucidate my reply in this particular case . I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the facts that in the year 1951, the potentiality of the major and minor irrigation was 22.6 million hectares and the utilisation was also 22.6 million hectares.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Cent per cent !

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Yes, cent per cent. It went on till the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan. At that

time, reporting in respect of minor irrigation was not properly done. After that, it was insisted that there should be a proper reporting. From the year 1980 to 1985, there is a gap of 4.1 million hectares in major and medium irrigation potentiality. At the end of 1991-92, the gap in the potentiality of major and medium irrigation was 4.3 million hectares only. So, the increase in the gap is only 0.2 million hectares.

If you look at minor irrigation, the increase in the gap is around 3 million hectares. This gap is mainly due to improper reporting. It is a fact that wherever some irrigation potential is created, here a command area development is also included in the project but this command area development takes place a little later. In some cases, whatever projection has been made in the main project on the basis of scientific record or data, that may not be a completely accurate one in practice. For example, in Maharashtra when some projects were formulated, the supply of water....(*Interruptions*)

.....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, may I repeat the question if the Minister does not mind ? If the Minister permits me, I will repeat my question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him explain what he wants to explain.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : In such cases, some gap took place. That, of course, I have stated right in the beginning. I admit that there is a gap but there is a silver lining. The gap is decreasing so far as major and medium irrigation potential is concerned.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : He has not replied to my first question. How can I ask my supplementary ? That is why, I said, let me repeat the question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : To your satisfaction, he may reply to your second one.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : With great respect, I submit that the Minister has said that the gap is decreasing but the same Minister had replied on the 3rd of this month in the other House that the gap would increase from 8.1 million hectares to 10.2 million hectares by the end of the Eighth Five-Year Plan. (*Interruption*)

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Let me correct him. What I have stated here is totally different. What I have stated here is about the decrese in the gap in respect of major and medium irrigation potentiality which is much wider and much more than that in minor irrigation. In respect of minor irrigation, there is an increase in the gap.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : My question is, how much gap will be reduced in the next 12 months, what are the steps the Government is taking to eliminate the entire gap, and by what time and what the specific time-bound plans are to utilise fully the unutilised World Bank-IDA loan ? That was my first supplementary. When he has not replied to that, how can I proceed to the second supplementary ?

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : I was coming to that but the hon. Member is not patient enough to hear me. I was coming to that. When he starts speaking, I have to sit. I am prepared to give that reply also. The hon. Member has to be a little patient.

Madam, with all humility, I would like to submit here what other remedial measures the Government is taking.

Firstly, making a change in the present concept of irrigation potential and utilisation and the existing procedures of reporting them to reflect correctly the achievements and shortcomings in the field of irrigation in a factual and realistic manner.

Secondly laying emphasis on water and crop accounting rather than mere area reporting.

Thirdly, methods adopted.... (*Interruptions*)....Here I have got a number of steps taken..... (*Interruptions*).....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can lay it on the Table of the House.... (*Interruptions*).....आपसे क्वाइंटेड क्वेश्चन पूछ रहे हैं इसलिए आप उनका क्वाइंटेड जवाब दीजिए। बाकी डिटेल्ज टेबल पर रख दीजिए। (व्यवधान)

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : आप कागज़ देखकर जवाब नहीं दीजिए। (व्यवधान)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, are you satisfied with his answer to my question ?.... (*Interruptions*).... He has not mentioned anything about the World Bank loan.... (*Interruptions*)....My question was how much gap will be reduced in the next twelve months. That was one. Then, the other question was about the timeframe. By what time the Government intends to reduce it ? The third part of the question was about the utilisation of the World Bank-IDA funds remaining unutilised....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, it is known to everybody that it is a continuous process and from year to year the process has been going on. The effort has been to reduce the gap and we have been able to achieve that. I have stated in respect of medium and minor irrigation.... (*Interruptions*).....

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Madam, it would be better if the senior Minister helps his junior. This is an important question....(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, I have put a specific question.... (*Interruptions*)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt. I would be very happy if the Members do not interrput the Minister..... (*Interruptions*)..Please do not interrupt. Let him answer....(*Interruptions*)..

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : He is not answering. I would request the Cabinet Minister to help his junior, to answer the question..... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The subject is so vast that he is answering in an elaborate manner.... (*Interruptions*)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would request Members not to interrupt. Let the flow of answer go on ....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Thank you, Madam.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : For what ?....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : It is a very very wide-ranging question.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Wonderful, wonderful !....(*Interruptions*)....

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI Yes, it is so wide-ranging that it goe

from this Minister to the Minister of Agriculture sitting here, Mr. Jakhar.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, If Mr. Viren Shah is not satisfied with my reply, naturally, my senior is there and he can go to his Chamber also and get his reply....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, this is an important question and the entire House is seized of the question and the question must be answered specifically....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : That is why I was coming to it..... (*Interruptions*)....

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Madam, the senior Minister should come to the help of his junior.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, the effort has been a continuous process....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Everything is a continuous process, leave alone irrigation. Even the Five Year Plan is a continuous process... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, in the next twelve months how much gap will be reduced ? That was my question. Then I had asked what the Government was going to do to eliminate the entire gap and by when. I had also asked a specific question about the World Bank-IDA funds remaining unutilized.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is a continuous process! .... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, ...(*Interruptions*)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order, please..... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, I am in a difficult position.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Definitely !....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Madam, when I want to explain the reasons, explain the steps taken, they are not hearing, they are not taking it. What I am saying is that it is a continuous process....(*Interruptions*)....and we will do it....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Answering also is a continuous process !....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, he has not replied to my question about the unutilized World Bank-IDA funds....(*Interruptions*)....

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Madam, when specific questions are asked, the answers also should be specific. The Cabinet Minister is here and he should help his junior. I do not think that it is proper to allow such things to happen again.... (*Interruptions*)....This is a very important question. After all, it is a very serious matter....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : It is a very serious matter....(*Interruptions*).. Rs. 2,000 crores are not being used and the farmers are being asked to pay irrigation tax.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : And you are importing foodgrains.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : The farmers are suffering. He is not replying properly.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Just a minute. Let us not make it zero Hour. Let us go properly. मंत्री जी वह सवाल पूछ रहे हैं कि वर्ल्ड बैंक का जो लोन ले रहे हैं। What are you going to do ? What is the time-frame ? By the end of this year, what would be the position ? You answer only these two points. आप इनका जवाब दे सकते हैं तो जरूर दे दीजिए।

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : As I have stated.... (*Interruptions*)

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : जब इनकी मदद के लिए अध्यक्ष खड़े हो गये हैं तो उनकी मदद के लिए भी मंत्री जी को खड़ा होना चाहिए, यह मैं कहना चाहता हूं....।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : आप बैठिए। I am not permitting (*Interruptions*) This is not the way.

श्री पी० के० थुंगन : आप तो फालोअप नहीं करते हैं। हम अपनी पालिसीज फालो करते हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You answer only these two points.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, as I have said, it pertains to the total gamut of irrigation projects in the country. And the hon. Member is right that we have taken certain loans from the World Bank and other agencies. The specific details which the hon. Member asked, I do not have here and I can supply to him in writing.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have asked too many questions. Now let Mr. Jain ask.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : My second supplementary is.... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Narayanasamy, this concerns the farmers, the whole country. It is not a question of a political party.... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, please.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Has the Minister's attention been drawn to a book where a recent report by Mark mentions that since Independence, 1500 large and medium dams have been built and 20 million people—two crores—have been displaced and till now only 25 per cent have been rehabilitated ? So, 1,50,00,000 people are still not rehabilitated since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan. Even the National Policy on Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation, as per your report here, is in draft form since April last year. Already 13 months have passed. In this context, it is worth noting that cost per hectare of minor irrigation is Rs. 7,361 as against Rs. 35,000 for the major and medium irrigation. This is one-fifth of the cost, and there is no displacement of people and no high cost to the farmers. My questions are : (a) Will the hon. Minister inform the House....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can ask one question, not questions. It should be corrected as, 'the question is'.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Thank you, Madam, for guiding me. Will the hon. Minister inform the House as to when will the balance of displaced persons— one and a half crore— be rehabilitated ? And is there a time-bound programme ? And if so, (b) will greater emphasis be given to minor irrigation projects in the Eighth and the Ninth Plans to avoid hardship to people, to avoid cost burden to farmers and debt burden to the country ? Is there any plan to involve the beneficiaries, as stated more than once by the hon. Prime Minister ? If so, please state specific details.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I must remind the Members that if they ask such long questions, they should not expect a small reply.

AN HON. MEMBER : Short reply to a long question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Just a minute. It is an observation from the Chair and you must take it seriously because, I know, if you ask one question which is your right as a Member, then the Minister can answer. If you ask a, b, c, d, and e, it is confusing, even to me. So, you answer the first question.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Question should be according to the size of the person.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It should be a very pointed question.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Madam, he has asked several questions. I do not know which part....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You answer the first question.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Does he want me to repeat the question ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Twenty minutes have already passed.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Madam, it costs the country one lakh of rupees per question for the people to be enlightened on a Starred Question in this House. And, I think, it is right that when we are spending public money, the Minister applies his mind and sees that we get an adequate reply. It is wrong to curtail a Member, Madam, as you know, he has been playing around with this. For 20 minutes he is still 'in a continuous process'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Even the question should be pointed for a pointed answer.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : He has asked a specific question.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the hon. Minister inform the House.... *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the hon. Minister inform the House as to when will the 1.5 crore persons since the First Plan be rehabilitated and is there a time-bound programme for that ? If so, what is that ?

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : In every project, a target is fixed and according to that target, rehabilitation targets are also fixed. There are a number of schemes and projects which are going on throughout the country and it will be improper on my part to precisely say in totality that this will be completed within a particular period.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, it is a question of 1.5 crore people who have to be rehabilitated.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Efforts are on and we are monitoring the projects in totality to see that these are completed within the time targeted. So far as the other observations made by the hon. Members are concerned, Madam, you are very right that if questions are put and they do not listen to the reply, it becomes improper on the part of the Members also.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Madam, he has not given reply to the most vital and important question affecting the whole nation and the farmers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. Jain.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : My supplementary relates to the return on investments made in the irrigation sector. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is the assessment of the Government that irrigation projects are unable to recover even the working expenses in most of the States ? I quote from a Plan document....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. You ask a specific question, please. We have already spent 22 minutes. Ask a specific question. No Plan documents.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : What are the current figures for average per hectare output on irrigated lands and what are the measures the Government proposes to undertake to generate larger returns on these investments ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is Agriculture Ministry's question.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : No, this is regarding investment on irrigation and the Government's assessment of the return on investments made in the irrigation sector.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : As I have stated, the project costs will differ from place to place and the Command Area Development also may differ. But the hon. Members will be glad to know—I was not given an opportunity to reply in detail—that because of the C.A.D. programmes, Centrally-sponsored programmes taken up by the Central Government since 1984-85, the development of command area with irrigation in those places is taking place satisfactorily. In the case of those States which are lagging behind, we are pursuing it with them.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Madam, are you sure, the reply given by the Minister..... ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will only permit two or three questions on it. Dr. Naunihal Singh.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Is it true that a lot of area is getting waterlogged which is close to the canals and projects like the dams and that this phenomenon continues ? If so, what are the steps being taken by the Government to prevent further waterlogging which turns cultivable lands into waste lands ? Besides, water level is also going down in the Indo-Gangetic plains and as a result, tubewells are suffering for want of abundant supply of water. What are the steps being taken by the Government to check lowering of the water level ?

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: It is in some areas after the canals where it goes to the fields in the command area, but there was no satisfactory arrangement. That is why, it has been decided that for about 40 metre, even after the distributing channel, grants from Centrally-sponsored schemes will be given. Also, as I was saying, in the minor irrigation systems some losses were taking place. Though in the beginning, there was no provision for extending this scheme to minor irrigation, we have decided that in the Eighth Five-Year Plan this C.A.D. Centrally-sponsored scheme will be extended to minor irrigation also so that such wastage of water is not there. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question was about water-logging and the lowering of the water-table

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : It is a continuous process. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.E. BALARAM : We can pass on to the next question. There is no use. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : What is the point in having Question Hour. It is ridiculing the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Madam one supplementary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We have spent enough time on this. Question No. 162. Shri Suresh Pachouri. (*Interruptions*)

Voluntary Organisations for Promoting Female Literacy

*162. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI† :
SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that States having higher female literacy rates have lower birth rates;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to increase female literacy;

(c) whether voluntary organisations have also been associated with the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Suresh Pachouri.

Statement

Voluntary Organisations for Promoting Female Literacy

(a) Yes, sir. In general, States having higher female literacy rate have lower birth rate.

(b) The steps taken by the Govt. to increase female literacy include measures to achieve Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) with stress on girls' education, setting up of Non-Formal Education (NFE) Centres for the children in the 6-14 age-group and Adult Education programmes through the National Literacy Mission (NLM) with focus on female literacy. The NLM aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million illiterates in the 15-35 age-group by 1995. The dominant strategy under the Mission is Total Literacy Campaigns (TLCs) which have been launched in 189 districts in the country covering about 42 million illiterates. Majority of the learners in these campaigns are women. As a matter of fact, the major thrust of all the programmes of UEE, NFE and NLM is promotion of literacy among women and among members belonging to SCs and STs, particularly in the rural areas, as it is amongst them that the incidence of illiteracy is the maximum.

(c) & (d) There are no speical schemes for exclusively promoting female literacy through voluntary organisations. However, voluntary organisations have been associated in all the 189 TLCs in progress in various parts of the country under the NLM. Besides, 49 Voluntary Agencies have been sanctioned TLC projects for making 12,80,201 illiterates, including 7,43,827 women, literate under the Central Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies in Adult Edu-